

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for mixing fibers in a gaseous flow, the device comprising:

a pervious forming wire;

a forming head facing a first side of said forming wire;

5 a suction box facing a second side of said forming wire;

a fiber feeding duct for feeding ~~suspending~~ fibers suspended in a gaseous flow into said forming head, said duct having an end in communication with an interior of said forming head;[[,]]

10 a fiber mixing device arranged in an intermediate position along said fiber feeding duct, said fiber mixing device being upstream of said forming head, said fiber mixing device including [[with]] an inlet side and an outlet side, said fiber mixing device including ~~and, between said inlet and said outlet,~~ at least a first pair of rotors on the inlet side and a second pair of rotors on the outlet side, said rotors having radially projecting elements, said rotors being arranged such that each rotation axis of each rotor is substantially orthogonal

15 perpendicular to said gaseous flow ~~and equipped with radial elements.~~

2. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the rotors of each pair have axes of rotation parallel to each other.

3. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the rotors of the

various pairs have axes of rotation parallel to each other.

4. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 2, wherein the rotors of the various pairs have axes of rotation parallel to each other.

5. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the rotors of the first pair rotate in opposite directions to each other and the rotors of the second pair rotate in opposite directions to each other.

6. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 5, wherein the rotors of the first pair rotate ~~so as to tend to produce~~ such that a denser arrangement of the fibers is produced in the passing flow toward the central zone of the duct, ~~while the~~ said rotors of the second pair ~~rotating~~ rotate so as to tend to produce such that a denser arrangement of the fibers is produced in the passing flow toward the peripheral zone of the duct.

7. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 5, wherein the rotors of the first pair rotate ~~so as to tend to produce~~ such that a denser arrangement of the fibers is produced in the passing flow toward the peripheral zone of the duct, ~~while the~~ said rotors of the second pair ~~rotating such that~~ rotate so as to tend to produce a denser arrangement of the fibers is produced in the passing flow toward the central zone of the duct.

8. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, wherein the radial elements of said rotors comprise rod-shaped members ~~constrained~~ connected to a respective rotating shaft.

9. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein said duct has at least one portion with a rectangular or square cross-section, in which said rotors are inserted.

10. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein said radial elements have an extension such that the envelopes of adjacent rotors interfere with each other.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein said rotors are actuated at a variable speed.

13. (Currently Amended) A device for dry-forming a strip-shaped fibrous material, the device comprising:

a pervious forming wire;[[,]]

a forming head located on ~~a first one~~ side of said wire; [[and]]

5 a suction box located on [[the]] another opposite side of said wire such that said suction box is opposite said forming head; ~~said forming head being supplied, by means of~~

a supply duct in communication with said forming head; ~~with fibers suspended in a~~

~~gaseous flow, wherein~~

10 a fiber mixing device ~~is arranged~~ in communication with said supply duct for uniformly
mixing fibers suspended in a gaseous flow, said fiber mixing device being located upstream of
said forming head, said forming head receiving said fibers suspended in said gaseous flow via
said supply duct.

14. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ for forming a strip-shaped fibrous article,
comprising the steps of:

[[-]] supplying fibers suspended in a gaseous flow to a forming head ~~by means of~~ via
a supply duct;

5 [[-]] depositing a layer of fibers onto a movable forming wire via ~~by means of~~ said
forming head ~~onto a movable forming wire~~;

[[-]] arranging in said supply duct at least a first pair of rotors and at least a second
pair of rotors, said first pair of rotors being arranged adjacent said [[and]]
second pair of rotors ~~being arranged one following the other~~ in a direction of the
10 gaseous flow ~~inside~~ within said supply duct;

[[-]] counter-rotating the rotors of each pair about axes perpendicular to the gaseous
flow ~~inside~~ within said duct; [[,]]

[[-]] mixing said fibers in a gaseous suspension inside said supply duct ~~by means of~~
via said rotors before feeding said fibers to said forming head.

15. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~Claim~~ claim 14, ~~including~~ further comprising the step of producing a denser arrangement of fibers in the central zone of the duct and subsequently a denser arrangement of the fibers in the peripheral zone of the supply duct.

16. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~Claim~~ claim 14, ~~including~~ further comprising the step of producing a denser arrangement of fibers in the peripheral zone of the duct and subsequently a denser arrangement of fibers in the central zone of the supply duct by means of said two pairs of rotors.

17. (New) A device for mixing fibers in a gaseous flow, the device comprising:

a duct for suspending fibers in a gaseous flow, with an inlet and an outlet and, between said inlet and said outlet, at least a first pair of rotors on the inlet side and a second pair of rotors on the outlet side, said rotors being arranged perpendicular to said flow and equipped with radial elements, wherein said duct has a transversal cross-section which is smaller than said inlet and said outlet.